

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: :  
Donald Richard LaCoy :  
Serial No.: To be assigned : Art Unit: To be assigned  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: To be assigned  
For: ELECTRICAL CONTACTS : Atty Docket: 20272/0688  
AND METHODS OF :  
MANUFACTURE :  
: :  
:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-captioned case as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

3. (Amended) An electrical socket according to Claim 1, wherein the socket

includes three groups of two wires each.

4. (Amended) An electrical socket according to claim 1, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.

Please add the following new claims.

11. (New) An electrical socket according to Claim 2, wherein the socket includes three groups of two wires each.

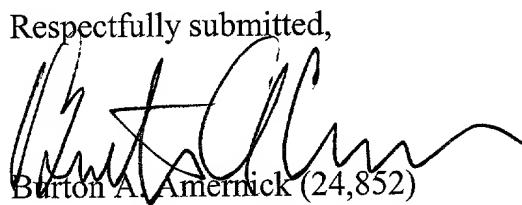
P  
A  
T  
E  
N  
T  
E  
D  
U  
S  
A

12. (New) An electrical socket according to claim 2, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.

13. (New) An electrical socket according to claim 3, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.

#### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Burton A. Amernick (24,852)  
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP  
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036-3425  
Telephone: 202-331-7111

Date: 9-24-01

APPENDIX – MARKED UP SET

3. (Amended) An electrical socket according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the socket includes three groups of two wires each.

4. (Amended) An electrical socket according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said retaining structure includes a ring at each end of the socket, and wherein said wires are retained in groups by attachment to said rings at opposite ends of the socket.